

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 ISO-00 AGR-05 AGRE-00 AID-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00

CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01

OMB-01 PA-01 PRS-01 /071 W
----- 021030

R 161708Z SEP 76

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1872

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 2490

AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

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PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EEC

SUBJECT: ACP SUGAR

REF: EC A-476 OF 11/25/75

1. THERE HAVE BEEN PRESS REPORTS THAT THE COMMISSION HAS
DECIDED TO REDISTRIBUTE TO OTHER ACP COUNTRIES THE SHORTFALLS
IN SUGAR SENDINGS FROM CONGO-BRAZZAVILLE, FIJI, SURINAM AND
UGANDA TO THE EC UNDER THEIR 1975/76 QUOTAS UNDER THE SUGAR
PROTOCOL OF THE LOME CONVENTION. ALSO, THE EC REPORTEDLY HAS
RECOGNIZED THE MAURITIUS' SHORTFALL WAS DUE TO "FORCE MAJEURE."
OUR COMMISSION CONTACTS ARE GREATLY DISTURBED BY THE STORIES
AND LABELLED THEM "MISLEADING." FIRST OF ALL, THEY SAY
THAT NO COMMISSION DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN (AND NONE IS EXPECTED
BEFORE A WEEK OR SO) WHETHER OR NOT TO DECLARE FORCE MAJEURE
IN ANY OF THE INDIVIDUAL CASES INVOLVED. THE AMOUNTS OF THE
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SHORTFALLS INCLUDED IN THE PRESS ARE CORRECT, HOWEVER; NAMELY:

	7/1/75-6/30/76 QUOTA	OF WHICH UNDELIVERED
CONGO-BRAZZAVILLE	10,000 M.T.	10,000 M.T.
FIJI	163,000	25,701
MAURITIUS	487,200	66,000
SURINAM	4,000	3,900
UGANDA	5,000	2,000

2. ALSO, OUR SOURCES EXPLAIN, SHOULD THE COMMISSION DETERMINE THAT SHORTFALLS IN ANY INDIVIDUAL CASE ARE NOT DUE TO FORCE MAJEURE, IT MUST ALSO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO REDISTRIBUTE THOSE AMOUNTS TO OTHER ACP SUPPLYING COUNTRIES. (IN CASES OF FORCE MAJEURE, THE SUPPLYING COUNTRY'S QUOTA IS NOT REDUCED BY THE SHORTFALL.) THE PROTOCOL ON SUGAR IN THE LOME CONVENTION GIVES THE COMMISSION DISCRETION TO REDISTRIBUTE OR NOT; HOWEVER, THE LOSS OF AN AMOUNT EQUIVALENT TO THE SHORTFALL UNDER A COUNTRY'S QUOTA IS AUTOMATIC. IN DECIDING WHETHER OR NOT TO REDISTRIBUTE SHORTFALLS TO OTHER ACP COUNTRIES, THE COMMISSIONERS WILL HAVE TO BALANCE OFF SEVERAL (PERHAPS) CONFLICTING INTERESTS INCLUDING EC INTERNAL SUPPLY CONSIDERATIONS. AS WE HAVE NOTED BEFORE, EC PRODUCTION WILL MOST LIKELY COVER EC CONSUMPTION NEEDS WHICH MEANS THAT ROUGHLY 1.25 MILLION M.T. OF SUGAR UNDER ACP SUGAR IMPORT ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE SURPLUS AND AN EQUIVALENT AMOUNT MUST BE EXPORTED. HINTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SUGAR, FOOD SHORTAGE, TRADE AGREEMENTS, RELATIONS WITH REGIONAL ORGS, IMPORT QUOTAS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ECBRU09078
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760351-0076
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760954/aaaabuiz.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <11 AUG 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ACP SUGAR
TAGS: EAGR, EEC, ACP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006